



DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

A California State Agency

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April 6, 2018

Steve Brandt, Ph.D., Chair
Delta Independent Science Board

RE: Delta Independent Science Board Review of the Draft Synthesis Papers to Inform the Delta Plan Ecosystem Chapter Amendment

Dear Dr. Brandt:

Pursuant to Water Code 85308(a), and as discussed with you at your March 9th meeting, the Delta Stewardship Council seeks the Delta Independent Science Board's (Delta ISB's) review of three synthesis papers, which are intended to identify critical science related to Delta ecosystems and to inform the amendment to Chapter 4, Delta Plan: *Restore, Protect, and Enhance the Delta Ecosystems*. Each synthesis paper includes a literature review of best available science, with special focus on work relevant to the Bay Delta system.

Attached for your review are the following public draft documents:

1. *Climate Change and the Delta: A Synthesis* – provides a review of recent publications, improved data, analytical tools, and planning guidance as they related to climate change, including sea-level rise.
2. *Towards the Protection, Restoration, and Enhancement of the Delta Ecosystem: A Synthesis* (including an Appendix A) - provides a review of the societal benefits of restoration, and a critical synthesis of ecosystem preservation, restoration, and opportunities to enhance wildlife values on non-restored lands.
3. *Delta Ecosystem Stressors: A Synthesis* - provides a review of the current literature on the physical drivers, landforms, and vegetation communities of the Delta, and how they relate to food-web dynamics.

"Coequal goals" means the two goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The coequal goals shall be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place."

– CA Water Code §85054

Request to the Delta ISB

As discussed previously, the Council proposes the following charge questions for your review of the public draft synthesis papers:

- Is the body of science used to develop the synthesis papers relevant and complete?
- Is there important scientific literature missing?
- Do scientific findings that are included at the end of each paper and provide guidance for changes to the Delta Plan chapter?

The Council greatly appreciates the Delta ISB's review and looks forward to receiving your comments. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the request further, please feel free to contact me or my staff, Ron Melcer Jr., Ronald.Melcer@deltacouncil.ca.gov or (916) 284-1619.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jessica Law', written in a cursive style.

Jessica Law
Chief Deputy, Delta Stewardship Council

Attachments